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# LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
TECHNIQUE OF LEGAL RESEARCH FOR THE PRACTICING LAWYER.....	<i>Frederick C. Hicks</i> 1
CURRENTS COMMENTS:	
New Library Requirements of the Association of American Law Schools .....	13
New Library Appointments .....	14
New Periodicals .....	16
Committees on Duplication of Legal Publications Meet .....	17
From the Commonwealth of Massachusetts .....	18
Essays on Constitutional Law .....	18
BOOK REVIEWS:	
Yale Law Library Manual, The Building, The Books and their Availability for Use, By the Staff of the Yale Law Library .....	<i>William R. Roalfe</i> 19
Legal Bibliography and the Use of Law Books, By Arthur Sydney Beardsley .....	<i>Lewis W. Morse</i> 20
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES .....	22
MEMBERS: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES .....	24
AMERICAN STATE REPORTS AND SESSION LAWS EXCLUSIVE OF SIDE REPORTS .....	36
RECENT LOCAL BOOKS, CODES, PAMPHLETS, SERVICES, ETC. ....	41
NEW BOOKS, CASE BOOKS, TREATISES, SERVICES, ETC. ....	43
ADVERTISEMENTS .....	45

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Vol.

**THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES WILL BE HELD AT  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, JUNE 28 TO JULY 1, 1938**

The Saint Paul Hotel, Saint Paul, Minnesota, has been selected for the headquarters of the Thirty-Third Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries to be held Tuesday, June 28th, to Friday, July 1st, inclusive, 1938.

The tentative program for the Annual Meeting, arranged by the Executive Committee at its mid-winter meeting, December 28th and 29th in Chicago, Illinois, will include an address on microphotography by Professor Hobart R. Coffey, Law Librarian of the University of Michigan; a paper on reference work in a law library by Margaret E. Hall, Reference Assistant in the Law Library of Columbia University; an address entitled "Some Phases of Law Library Administration and Service," by Dr. Arthur S. Beardsley, Law Librarian of the University of Washington, and a paper on "Ohio Reports, Statutes and Digests", by Alfred A. Morrison, Law Librarian of the University of Cincinnati.

The Institute on Law Library Administration, which constituted one of the most popular sessions of the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting in New York last June, will be prominently featured on the program of the Saint Paul meeting. Miss Frances Lyon, Law Librarian of the New York State Library, will preside as chairman and several speakers, including Lewis W. Morse, Law Librarian of Cornell University, and Oscar Orman, Law Librarian of Washington University, will participate in the discussion. The topics to be presented at the Institute will be announced later.

In addition to the program of meetings, the Committee on Local Arrangements, under the chairmanship of Arthur C. Pulling, Law Librarian of the University of Minnesota, is making plans for the delegates to visit the Minnesota State Library, the Hennepin County Law Library, the Law Library of the University of Minnesota, and the plant of the West Publishing Company. The program will also include a trip to one of the nearby lake resorts and an informal dinner.

Reservations for rooms should be made as soon as possible through Frank H. Bellizzi, Assistant Manager, Saint Paul Hotel. The room rates are as follows:

Single Rooms .....	\$2.50—\$3.00—\$3.50—\$4.00—\$4.50—\$5.00—\$5.50
Double Rooms .....	\$3.50—\$4.00—\$4.50—\$5.00—\$5.50—\$6.00—\$6.50
Twin Beds .....	\$5.00—\$6.00—\$7.00

Complete program announcements will be made in the March number of the **LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL**.

# LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL

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## TECHNIQUE OF LEGAL RESEARCH FOR THE PRACTICING LAWYER \*

FREDERICK C. HICKS

*Professor of Law and Law Librarian, Yale University Law School*

Research is a word to conjure with. By its use vast sums of money have been extracted from the treasures of foundations, corporations and universities, and by devotion to it in action, the ancient world has been transformed into the marvelous world of today. There are two kinds of research, pure research which seeks to extend the bounds of knowledge by discoveries; and a more humble kind which takes facts already known, assembles them, and classifies them in new ways, thereby bringing to light new relationships. In this kind of research, one searches again for the innermost meaning of that which is dealt with. It is in this sense that lawyers do research. Not only practicing lawyers, but legislators, judges, and legal writers also engage in this secondary kind of research. They do more than this when they seek not merely legislation and judicial decisions, but all elements which in the end will affect the result. These elements are very numerous and they are constantly changing. It is for this reason that the simple question *What is the law on this or that point?* is so difficult to answer. For the lawyer knows that quoting the words of a statute or case does not tell what the result of new litigation will be. In other words, behavior changes concerning the pronouncements of legislatures and courts, both on the part of judges and of enforcement officers.

It has been said that law is not like a straightedge, but rather like a rubber band that stretches and bends. Mathematicians have taught us how to express this idea more scientifically. Supplying meanings for their x's denoting mathematical functions, and for their v's designating variables of which x is a function, we find ourselves saying that law in a given jurisdiction applicable to a given set of facts varies as a large number of unstable elements vary.<sup>1</sup>

This jargon begins to have serious meaning when you are called upon to advise a client or to lay out the plan for litigating a case. Variability in law, we have good reason to know, depends among other things on the personnel of the courts, on their security and tenure, upon the changing balance of authority as between the courts, the legislature and the executive. Will the Constitution always mean what the Supreme Court says it means? Or will it mean what the legislature, or the

\* Address before the Forum of the New York County Lawyers' Association, April 22, 1937.

<sup>1</sup>See HICKS, MATERIALS AND METHODS OF LEGAL RESEARCH, (2d ed. 1933), Chapter 2.

executive, says it means? Will it mean the same thing in the next administration that it does now? I express no opinion on the question whether this is a situation which ought to exist, but say only that it does exist—that the meaning of so sacrosanct a thing as the United States Constitution varies from time to time to the extent that a multitude of elements affecting it vary.

This being the situation, the task of the lawyer is (1) to predict what the results in an instant case will be for his client, and (2) for the benefit of this client, by advocacy, to do his utmost, within the rules of the game, to make his prediction or prophecy come true. Dealing with existing statutes and cases already decided, the lawyer must strive to retrace the mental processes of the legislators who made those statutes and the judges who decided those cases to see what was really meant; and he must predict what the reaction of the court to the cited statutes and cases will be in the instant case. To influence them he must be an advocate.

We know without doubt that statutes and precedents are only two of the influences which determine the rights of a client. I call them *literary manifestations of the law*, the most objective and concrete things that we can find concerning the law, and yet even those must be thought of as variables. Why are they variables? Because at one and the same time they mean one thing to you, another to your opponent, and another to the court sitting in the case. Because also, statutes may not only be repealed and amended by positive enactment, but their effect may be nullified in whole or in part by subsequent statutes that in no way precisely refer to them. Because their meaning may be varied by judicial interpretation, and they may be totally voided by decisions of the courts. For example: a statute of Wisconsin (Chapter 546, Laws of 1935) is printed in the Wisconsin revision of 1935. It has all the earmarks of an authentic literary manifestation of the law. But a yellow slip inserted in the front of the volume tells us that the act never became law because of a pocket veto (*State ex rel. Finnegan v. Dammann*, 220 Wis. 143) which result came about because the Governor thought he could veto part of the act and approve the rest. The partial veto was invalid, and so the whole act was held to have failed to receive his approval.

Precedents are variables because cases in the same courts are in conflict, because subsequent cases affect their weight, and because you do not know how a court in your case will interpret them as precedents. The ability of lawyers as advocates differs, thus affecting the results obtained from judges whose decision in a case at bar you are trying to influence through legal argument.

. There are at least four stages of legal research as applied to practicing lawyers.

In the *first*, the search is to determine the factual basis of the problem. This is the beginning of every scheme of research, essential always, no matter how you may thereafter proceed. It is the judge's approach to a case on appeal, and the thread which holds the legal theory of a case together from the first hypothesis concerning it until it is finally heard, it may be, in the highest court of the land. We find this

need for facts especially emphasized in hearings before administrative tribunals such as the Illinois Commerce Commission, some of whose decisions have been nullified on appeal because it failed to make sufficiently definite its findings of fact.<sup>2</sup>

This search for the facts of a case is not confined wholly to events and objective things, but inevitably, as soon as you have a first statement of facts, involves a hypothesis as to the legal bearing of the facts. You begin immediately to translate layman's facts into lawyer's facts; that is, you begin to construct a theory. The instant you do this you are taking the first step in the preparation of your brief. This is the scientific method of the natural scientists, as it is also of everyone in his daily thinking. We cannot do so simple a thing as record facts without involuntarily attempting to classify them, and when we do this we are assuming a hypothesis—setting up a theory. This hypothesis, as the scientists do, may be discarded and replaced many times before you fix on the theory by which your brief will be written. The point to notice here is that legal research and briefmaking are parts of the same process, and that they cannot really be wholly separated. You begin to think legally even before you start "looking up the law."

The *second stage* of legal research requires the finding of literary manifestations of the law in the jurisdiction involved, having some relation to the facts of the case, and which fit into the hypothesis upon which you are for the moment working. This means that you try to find pertinent statutes, cases and administrative rulings and regulations.

The *third stage* follows, in which you intensively examine the assembled legal material, classify it with critical care, and make sure that it corresponds to the theory of the case that you are tending to adopt for brief writing.

The *fourth stage* is the one in which you deal not only with technical legal material, but combine it also with all other elements (described above as variables) which affect your theory of the case, throw all your facts, legal and otherwise, into legal perspective, determine what your prediction of the possible result of argument will be, and choose the strategy and tactics of your scheme of advocacy.

It is the *second* of these four stages of legal research about which I have been asked to speak—that which deals with the finding of pertinent statutes, cases, and administrative rulings and regulations. It is the most commonplace, mechanical and, to most people, uninteresting of the four stages. Perhaps I can tell you nothing new about it. If perchance I do, it will be in relation to the system of work, and the relation of the parts of the task to each other.

The first requirement is to know, as a part of a lawyer's equipment, what important books exist and are currently published. This means that every lawyer should be to some extent a legal bibliographer. Right here, I wish to make a plea to lawyers to adopt the habit of using the law library's card catalogue. These catalogues are expensive to make, and while essential to the librarian in building up the

<sup>2</sup> 31 ILL. L. REV. 757.

library, serve only half their purpose if lawyers do not personally use them. Lawyers as a class seem to be particularly averse to using them, and to know little about how to do so. Often they thereby fail to discover books of prime importance to their search. They may possess skill in looking up a subject in a digest, but stumble helplessly when searching for the same subject in a card catalogue.

Let us run over hurriedly some of the books both for New York and for Federal law in which one must look to find pertinent statutes.

For New York, there are *McKinney's Consolidated Laws, Annotated*, with pocket supplements; the current session laws, published first in the advance sheets of the official series of reports; compilations of laws on special subjects; regulations of administrative boards and commissions, such as the *General Orders of the Public Service Commission*; the charter and ordinances of the city involved, such as Ash's or Baldwin's editions of the New York City Charter; the codes of procedure such as the Gilbert-Bliss, Clevenger, Cahill, Parsons and Medina editions of the Civil Practice Act; and the Gilbert edition of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Law; and finally the court rules. I include court rules among statutes because for practical purposes they have the same effect as practice acts.

For the Federal government, there are the *United States Code Annotated*, and Mason's *Federal Code Annotated*, both with pocket supplements; the *Statutes at Large*, the *Pamphlet Laws*, which, however, will no longer be published; the Congressional slip laws; and the Court rules which, for the District Courts, are now under revision by the Supreme Court working through a committee, the preliminary report of which was published in May, 1936.<sup>3</sup> *Congressional Hearings*, although not statute law, throw great light on the meaning and purpose of Federal acts; and finally there is the subordinate legislation issued by boards and commissions, and contained in numerous departmental publications. Since March 14, 1936, these have been contained also in the *Federal Register*, published five times a week by the National Archives of the United States, and made up of executive and administrative regulations, of general applicability. Such regulations issued prior to March 14, 1936, are to be compiled and published in a series of volumes supplementary to the *Federal Register*.<sup>4</sup>

In regard to the collected laws represented for New York by *McKinney's Laws* (here presumed to be a correct transcript of the official edition as amended, of the *Consolidated Laws*), and as to the *United States Code Annotated* (here presumed to be identical textually with the official edition and supplements, of the *Code*), it should be noted that in both cases, they are only *prima facie* evidence of what the statute law is, since by statute it is provided that in the event that there is a divergence between the session laws and them, the session laws are controlling.

<sup>3</sup>Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Rules for Civil Procedure, published November, 1937. Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts of the United States, adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States by an order entered as of December 20, 1937. Presented by the Attorney General to Congress January 3, 1938.

<sup>4</sup>For an illuminating article on what must and what may be published in the *Register*, and on the effect of publication, see John J. Brauner's comments in the FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, April, 1937, (FED. B. A. J. 3:37).

It should be observed also that in the division of New York session laws into Public, Private and Local laws, and of the *Statutes at Large* into Public and Private laws, there are no fixed criteria for determining in which section a particular law will be found. It may be treated as a private law when you think it is public, and *vice versa*. The Federal acts are divided into the two groups by the State Department, which has only general rules to guide it in the division. Two examples will illustrate the situation. An act of March 4, 1927, granting a patent to Del Norte, California, for land to be used as a public wharf is classed as a private act; and an act of February 12, 1927, granting land to San Juan County, Washington, for park purposes, is classed as a public act. It would be helpful if all states followed the example of Oregon, where it is provided that every act shall be a public act, "unless otherwise declared in the statute itself."

The finding of material on a given subject in revised or collected laws is not always easy. Not all statutes or parts of statutes on one topic are contained in the same group. There is a classification or grouping by chapters containing like material, but the different chapters over-lap. To bring all related material under the respective topics would require printing the same material more than once in the same book. We all know how often we have to piece our statute law together from parts of different chapters in the same book or from acts found in different books. Therefore, it is essential to use indexes.

What indexes exist? For *McKinney's Laws* and for the *U. S. Code Annotated*, there are fine subject indexes, as there are also for the individual volumes of session laws and the *Statutes at Large*, and for the codes of practice. But these indexes themselves are not completely exclusive and inclusive as to the items placed under the various headings. Not infrequently, you fail to find listed in the obvious place in an index a reference to a statute which you know exists. By some quirk of the index maker's mind, it is under another heading which has not yet occurred to you. Therefore, it is a safe practice not only to look under the obvious headings, but also to explore all alternative headings that you can think of.

There are also independently published statute law indexes with which the lawyer should be familiar. For New York there are Baxter's *General Index to the Laws*, 1777-1907, and Bender's *Consolidated Statutory Index*, with pocket supplements, covering the *Consolidated Laws*, general independent statutes, the codes and court rules; and there is a combined index of the session laws of all states, the *State Law Index*, now in five volumes, covering the years 1925 to 1935. A volume prepared by the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress, is published every two years. It is confined to general and permanent laws, and therefore excludes those designated as local, private, temporary and special acts, some of which you may be thinking of as public and permanent acts. For the Federal acts there are Beaman and McNamara's *Index Analysis of the Federal Statutes*, for the years 1789 to 1873; and McClenon and Gilbert's *Index to the Federal Statutes*, for the years 1874 to 1931. These general indexes, both for New York and for Congressional Acts, often prove to be a present help in time of trouble.

Having found statutes that are pertinent to your case, how shall these statutes be tested as to their value for use? Everyone knows that the annotations to McKinney, Mason, and the U. S. Code, are invaluable for this purpose. You get from these annotations information on the legislative history of the acts and also on their judicial history. It must be remembered, however, that these annotations have no official status, and that they were written by lawyers, who like yourself, are prone to error. It is the part of wisdom, surely, to verify the conclusions of the annotators. One help in doing this is Shepard's Citation books, which have extensive sections devoted to statutes, for some states much more extensive than for others. The statutory sections in Shepard's New York Citation books are not as comprehensive as is their service for Federal acts. In such books we find not only citations to cases interpreting and voiding acts, but also references to amendments and repeals. A final means of testing acts is fortunately one that is seldom necessary. I refer to the comparison of the words of acts as found even in official editions of the session laws, with the enrolled acts filed in the archives of the legislature. The exact wording, including the punctuation, is necessary to the strict construction of an act, and there are instances in which the meticulous care of the lawyer has been rewarded by important discoveries.

Most lawyers begin the search for pertinent cases before they search for statutes. I have reversed the order so that the importance of statutory research may not be overlooked. If you have found pertinent statutes in the annotated laws to which reference has already been made, and if you have Shepardized them, you have probably also found references to pertinent cases. In what books will these and other similar cases be found? I apologize to this audience for naming them, because you know them better than I do. But I do so for a particular reason which will presently appear. Three of the official series of reports for New York are paralleled by other reports, the *New York Reports* by the *Northeastern Reporter* and the *New York Supplement*, and the other two, viz. the *Appellate Division Reports* and the *Miscellaneous Reports*, also by the *New York Supplement*. Most of the material in the other official series, viz. the *State Department Reports*, can be found also in the publications of the individual departments and bureaus concerned. This set contains the informal opinions of the Attorney General, but his formal opinions are found only in his Reports.

For the Federal courts, the *United States Supreme Court Reports* are paralleled by the *Supreme Court Reporter* and by the *Lawyer's Edition*, while a complete report of cases in the Circuit Courts of Appeals and in the District Courts is found only in the *Federal Reporter*, 2d, and in the *Federal Supplement*, respectively. I speak here, of course, only of the chief current sets. The *Federal Supplement* contains also cases decided in the District Court for the District of Columbia, in the Court of Claims and in the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, thus paralleling three current sets of reports. Then there are the numerous sets of reports containing decisions of the administrative departments and tribunals, such as the Federal Trade Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Treasury Department.

Leading cases selected from the decisions of both Federal and State Courts can be found in *American Law Reports, Annotated*, and its predecessors. If one of the pertinent cases in which you are interested is published in this series accompanied by an annotation, your path will be very much smoothed. Two volumes, just published, entitled the *New York Annotator*, list all New York cases referred to in the annotations of the *American Law Reports, Annotated*. You may be greatly helped also if your topics falls within the scope of the special subject reports that are currently published, such as the *American Bankruptcy Reports*, *American Maritime Cases*, and *Negligence and Compensation Cases, Annotated*.

Getting references to pertinent cases by means of someone else's annotations to a statute or case is a roundabout way of selecting cases from the reports. How can it be done by a more direct method? Obviously one must have a subject index. Such subject indexes we call digests. "A legal digest is a compilation of paragraphs containing concise summaries of points in cases, grouped under appropriate headings, the chief of which are alphabetically arranged."<sup>5</sup>

Typical digests are the Abbott *New York Digest, Consolidated Edition*, and the digests for the *U. S. Supreme Court Reports*, and for the *Federal Reporter* and *Supplement*. There is a digest for *American Law Reports, Annotated*, and most comprehensive of all, there is the *American Digest System*. A series of indexes made up of numerical citations of cases grouped under subject headings, published for the U. S. Reports, and for many of the states, but no longer for New York, is known as Shepard's *Topical Indexes*. To use these indexes successfully you must be pretty sure of your knowledge of the classification scheme. In fact, the minute you open any digest, you must begin to think in terms of *classification*, and be conscious of *arrangement* as distinguished from *classification*.

I have said that the arrangement of the chief groups in the digests is alphabetical. This is not the order of the groups in the scheme of classification which is before the digester when he is selecting the material to go in these groups. That scheme is arranged in a logical order according to a scientific theory. The rearrangement in the order of headings is made for the convenience of the user.

"The digester assembled the material for his groups following a scientific theory of classification?" someone may ask. "If so, it was a faulty scheme." I reply that the scheme for the American Digest System was as good as anyone had worked out at the time it was adopted; and that no one has proposed a better scheme that could be used in its place. Improvements could be made, it is true, but I doubt if it would be worth while to make any extensive changes. Any new scheme would be equally wrong for some purposes. No one can foresee that you will want to find grouped in a digest all points in all cases applicable to a particular set of facts in your case. The permutations and combinations of facts are innumerable, and the number of different relationships between facts and legal ideas is equally stupendous. These relational nuclei are like snowflakes, of which no two have exactly the same crystalline structure. Yet there are groups which have characteristics in common.

<sup>5</sup> HICKS, MATERIALS AND METHODS OF LEGAL RESEARCH, (2d ed. 1933), p. 212.

Someone has oracularly said that the purpose of classification is to classify. Not so. Classification in digests is not an end in itself. It is merely a means to an end. The digester's scheme of classification serves only to help him to segregate what he thinks is *like material* into a series of general groups, which the publishers arrange in what they think is a convenient way, so that you can find the index paragraphs that you are seeking. If you find what you want, no matter what heading it is under, you appropriate it and reclassify it to serve your particular purpose. All thinking is a process of classification and reclassification. Whenever we weave a series of legal ideas into a new pattern, to apply them to a case, we are classifying them. You want a new classification for each case, but this is the lawyer's task. No fixed classification is satisfactory to anyone except the person who makes it. But we can learn to find ideas in such a classification, even though according to our present thought, the scheme is faulty.

But it may be objected that even when the scheme is good, the sorting of the paragraphs is bad. In orange groves, they have belts to convey the fruit to a succession of tables perforated with holes of different sizes, the smallest holes in the first table. As the oranges progress over them, the smallest drop through first, and the others are carried on until they reach holes through which they can pass. Thus there is a mechanical classification by size. You can't do that with digest paragraphs.

Consider the plight of the digest maker. He is not a mere railway mail clerk shooting letters with unerring aim into rows of bags. He is dealing with ideas, not objects. When he puts a digest paragraph into a compartment, he hopes to be as accurate as is a mail clerk. He does not always succeed, for ideas are difficult to label. They overlap. Several people working on the same digest do not always think alike, and the same person thinks differently at different times. The time will never come, I fear, when every point in every case will be listed on separate cards, which will be punched to show the relationship of the legal points to all kinds of facts and to all other legal points. You would decide what you wanted, set the International Business machine, and run the cards through, thus sorting out just what you need. No, not in our time. There will always be the difficulty of punching the cards, and perhaps of knowing what you want. So I say, be patient with the digest maker. Even be grateful to him.

Nearly everything that I have said about digests applies to encyclopaedias. The latter differ in form from digests, and they have a dual character. They are compendiums, or collections of brief treatises on the law, but they also have their use as subject indexes. Instead of digest paragraphs arranged under headings, you have the same material reworded to form textual statements, each one of which is supported in the footnotes by citations of cases. The footnotes sometimes occupy more space than the text. The problems of classification and arrangement are the same as they are for digests.

The Abbott *New York Digest* used to be called a cyclopaedic digest, but has been changed into a true digest. There is now no legal encyclopaedia devoted exclusively to New York State, but there are such books for some other states, for example, *California Jurisprudence* and *Texas Jurisprudence*. The typical general

encyclopaedias, corresponding to the American Digest System, are *Corpus Juris* and *Corpus Juris, Secundum*. Those corresponding to the digests for the annotated reports series are *Ruling Case Law*, and its successor, *American Jurisprudence*. Some people like to use encyclopaedias and some, digests. The difference between them is chiefly one of form, not of content.

Digests and encyclopaedias are, themselves, elaborate subject indexes. Their arrangement has been simplified as much as possible. Each heading is provided with a syllabus telling what is and what is not included under that heading. And there are numerous cross references. Nevertheless, because of the many subdivisions of the chief topics, it is not always easy to find what you seek. There may be no headings for many topics in which from time to time you are interested. The digesters did not have your particular problem in mind when they sorted the digest paragraphs into groups. Yet the material may be there somewhere. The publishers know about these difficulties, and have therefore provided subordinate indexes—indexes to the master indexes. Lawyers of the old school used to scoff at such books, calling them "Yellow Dog books," suggesting that only the ignorant need them. But no one need scoff today. Every lawyer needs all the help he can get. Examples of the books to which I refer are the *Descriptive Word Index* to the Abbott Digest; the *Descriptive Word Index* to the American Digest System, and to *Corpus Juris* and *Corpus Juris, Secundum*,<sup>6</sup> and the *Quick Search Manual* for *Corpus Juris-Cyc*. It should be noted that each volume of both *Corpus Juris, Secundum*, and of *American Jurisprudence*, has its own index. All of these aids index names of things, questions of fact and questions of law in one alphabet.

I need not refer, except in passing, to methods of testing the probable weight of pertinent cases which your search has uncovered. Every lawyer knows about *Shepard's Citations*, in which the numerical citation form is employed; and about Haviland and Greene's *Analyzed New York decisions and citations*, in which the arrangement is by titles of cases. In such books we find set out, as in a graph, the rising and falling values of cases as precedents. These books are pretty reliable guides as to leading cases. They disclose also that some cases, perhaps the one you chiefly value, have had no notable judicial history after the date when they were decided. For administrative decisions, there is often no help except from your own investigations. Suppose, for example, that you find a decision, important to you, reported in the United States *Internal Revenue Bulletin*. The Bureau, in this *Bulletin*, warns us that such rulings may be cited as precedents only at our own risk. They lack the status of Treasury decisions. They are published only "for the information of taxpayers and their counsel as showing the trend of official opinion in the administration of the Bureau of Internal Revenue; the rulings other than Treasury decisions have none of the force or effect of Treasury decisions and do not commit the Department to any interpretation of the law which has not been formally approved and promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury. Each ruling embodies the administrative application of the law and Treasury decisions to the entire state of facts upon which a particular case rests. It is especially to be noted that the

<sup>6</sup> The latter index has not yet been published.

same result will not necessarily be reached in another case unless all the material facts are identical with those of the reported case. As it is not always feasible to publish a complete statement of the facts underlying each ruling, there can be no assurance that any new case is identical with the reported case. As bearing out this distinction, it may be observed that the rulings published from time to time may appear to reverse rulings previously published." Thus the Bureau gives itself complete freedom of action.

If you have found a leading case upon which you wish to rely, or especially if it is one which you will have to combat, it is useful to examine the appeal papers by means of which it was brought up to the court of last resort. You may find that it was strongly argued on a different theory than that on which it was decided. And you may uncover unsuspected facts. Law libraries are fast filling up with collections of such briefs and records. If House Resolution 4848 ever became law<sup>7</sup> they may be called upon to add talking films and projection rooms to their library facilities. The Resolution provides that District judges may prescribe whether the proceedings in a case shall be recorded by talking moving-picture machines, so that Appellate courts may view and hear them as part of the record. A reasonable charge would be made for the use of the recording equipment and the records made therewith, "to be taxed as part of the costs in each case wherein such equipment or recording were used."

We have talked thus far only of approaches to law reports through digests and encyclopaedias, with the aid of their own subsidiary indexes, such as the *Descriptive Word Index*. Access to cases may be had by other means valuable either alone or in combination with other methods. There are also incidental advantages in some of these methods which commend them. These methods begin respectively with the use of treatises, dictionaries and periodical indexes. If your problem deals with agency, or contracts or conflict of laws or property or torts or trusts, you can turn to the American Law Institute's *Restatements* of those subjects, supplementing the doctrine expressed, by the state annotations published in separate volumes. Or you can turn to any well-known treatise on your subject, the existence of which is disclosed to you by the library card catalogue. You find citations of cases by this method and in passing, by reading the text, reorient yourself in the topic. From the footnotes you select a pertinent case, look it up in the table of cases to your digest, where you find the key number for it. Turning to the part of the digest thus indicated, you find digest paragraphs for other similar cases, from which you select those which you wish to read in the reports.

If, instead of using the treatise method, you look first in the *Index to Legal Periodicals*, published by the American Association of Law Libraries, you may find a reference to an article on the precise point which you are studying. This *Index* gives references, arranged by legal subjects, to articles in every important legal periodical published in the English-speaking world. The reading of the articles pointed out to you discloses supporting cases which you then follow up through the tables of cases and the digests. Or you may begin by looking up in a dictionary

<sup>7</sup> See U. S. LAW WEEK, March 2, 1937.

some word or phrase that seems vital to your problem. It is surprising how often consultation of *Bouvier's Law Dictionary*, or, better still, of *Words and Phrases Judicially Defined*, will reveal a leading case from which a definition was taken. This case, by the method described above, will be the entering wedge to the digest, and through it to the reports.

The kind of research which I have been attempting to describe puts the responsibility on the lawyer who is preparing his case. He uses the law books mentioned only to aid him in his own research. He does not accept as authentic and authoritative anything except what is found in statutes, cases and administrative rulings and regulations. If he adopts the view of a text writer, it is only after verifying his authorities. This is a laborious task, involving the use of many books. To aid the lawyer in this task, and especially to bring his material thoroughly down to date, certain publishers have evolved a new kind of law book, known as the *Loose Leaf Service*. In these services are brought together and kept up-to-date by frequent additions and substitutions, reprints of all material discovered upon numerous special topics. They include statutory, judicial and administrative material. If you can afford to own these services, or if you have access to them, it is well to use them, although I would not describe this process as simplicity itself. If you do use them, do not rely on them implicitly without verification. They are someone else's work, and are subject to error. Moreover, there may be error in your own office. Have the new sheets been filed in the right place? Or are they even now still in the envelope in which they were mailed to you?

There is a minor technique involved in all that I have been advocating—a minor technique to which some people refer as if it were the whole of legal research. This technique is illustrated by a series of bibliographical problems which I have been accustomed to give to law students.<sup>8</sup> They were formulated after observation of questions asked over a period of years by students and lawyers in the library. How do you do this? How can I find that? This book is in use, what can I use instead? and so on. The following are types of questions that were evolved: How can a case be found when only its numerical citation is known?

How can a case, or a statute, be found when only its title is known?

How can a case, or a statute, be found when you have only its numerical citation, and lack the volume for which the citation calls?

How can the judicial history of a case, or a statute, be traced?

How can the legislative history of a statute be traced?

The answers to such questions I have already put into print.

These problems are the setting-up exercises of the lawyer, to strengthen his mental muscles and give him skill in using books and the finding devices. No one really likes such prescribed exercise. There isn't the thrill in it that comes from finding material that you need in an actual case. Setting-up exercises are not as amusing as is playing basketball. Nevertheless, if you are to be skillful and direct instead of fumbling and roundabout in practical legal research, you must acquire

<sup>8</sup> See HICKS, MATERIALS AND METHODS OF LEGAL RESEARCH, (2d ed. 1933), Chapter XVI.

this technique. Wandering aimlessly around in the maze of law books is the most disheartening thing that can be done. By experience and exercise, at a time when he is not pressed by the fear of error, the lawyer must *find himself* in the library, and form his own system of work. I say *system*, because nothing else will do. He may have his flashes of intuition sometimes, which will shorten the process, but he is never sure that he has not overlooked an important point if he does not plod along methodically according to a system. This system must be his own. Different people like to work in different ways, and no two approaches are exactly alike. The publishers know this and have provided several different sets of useful tools.

So I say, after experiment, select your own method and systematize it. Write down in order the processes that you prefer, and make a list of the books that you have found useful. At the risk of being tedious, I have named some of them. You know them, but you may overlook them in the hurry of your work. When you attack a problem, check this list as you go along. You keep a diary showing just what you do for a client, in order that you may itemize his bill. Be just as particular in itemizing for yourself what you do, and should do, in looking up the law in his case.

Some men like to handle books, become familiar with their peculiarities, criticise them, and in their own copies, write emendations and corrections. To some men, law books are like living things—their friends and companions. Kent, for example, confided to the flyleaves and margins of his books thoughts that he gave to no person, even through his *Commentaries* and decisions.

To some other men, books are mere machines, instrumentalities with which to work out problems, keys with which to open doors to knowledge, wrenches with which to loosen bolts to take off the lids of judges' minds, so that their inner workings may be seen.

To whichever class you belong, you, as lawyers, have a duty to be skillful in the use of law books. It is an old saying that lawyers do not know so much more law than other people, but they know better how to find it. It takes time and patience, industry and experience to become thus skillful. You can acquire some of your skill at the expense of your clients, but they should not have to stand it all.

I have outlined the processes and technique of one phase only of legal research—that which deals with the use of law books—that is, with one type of variable of which law is a function. When following this process, the lawyer is always thinking ahead to his brief, otherwise he will make little progress. Many other things than law-book research will, however, have a part in determining what line of argument his brief will take.

**CURRENT COMMENTS****New Library Requirements of the Association of American Law Schools**

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS at the opening session of its Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting, held on Wednesday, December 29th, at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Illinois amended its articles of association by adopting the recommended requirement that each member school shall have "a qualified librarian, whose principal activities are devoted to the development and maintenance of an effective service."

This important recommendation, first proposed in the report of the American Association of Law Libraries Committee on Cooperation with the Association of American Law Schools presented at the Thirty-first Annual Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August, 1936 ( L. LIB. J. 29:138 at 140), was later incorporated in the 1936 report of Professor Robert McNair Davis, Chairman of the Association of American Law Schools Special Committee on Cooperation with the American Association of Law Libraries (Handbook and Proceedings, Association of American Law Schools, 1936, page 136 and 333). Professor Davis urged the approval of this recommendation at the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools held in Chicago in December, 1936. By vote of the Association, the Executive Committee was instructed to draft a proposed amendment to the Articles of Association. The adoption of the amendment at the 1937 meeting just held is a signal victory for the many advocates of improved library service in the law schools of the country.

In addition to the requirement with respect to a librarian, amendments were adopted regarding the minimum contents of a law library. Formerly imposed as recommendations only, the minimum contents of a law library are now requirements which must be met by all member schools.

The full text of Article Six, Section 6, as amended and adopted at the 1937 meeting in Chicago, is as follows:

"Commencing September 1, 1932, it shall own a law library of not less than ten thousand volumes, which shall be so housed and administered as to be readily available for use by students and faculty. Commencing September 1, 1940, it shall have, in addition to the four instructors specified in Section 7 of this Article, a qualified librarian, whose principal activities are devoted to the development and maintenance of an effective library service.

"Commencing September 1, 1932, for additions to the library in the way of continuations and otherwise, there shall be spent over any period of five years at least ten thousand dollars, of which at least fifteen hundred dollars shall be expended each year. Commencing September 1, 1939, such library shall include substantially the following:

"1. The published reports of appellate decisions of the state in which the school is located, together with commonly used editions of the statutes and digests.

"2. The published reports of decisions of the courts of last resort prior to the reporter in at least one-half the states of the United States with reasonably up-to-date editions of statutes in one-fourth the states.

"3. The published reports of the decisions of the United States Supreme Court with the generally used editions of federal statutes and digests.

"4. The National Reporter System complete.

"5. Leading up-to-date publications in the way of general digests, encyclopedias, and treatises of accepted worth.

"6. At least ten legal periodicals of recognized worth, complete with current numbers.

"7. The English reports covered by the so-called reprint, together with the law reports to date."

### New Library Appointments

A. ALFRED DE VITO, former Law Librarian of the District Attorney's Office of the County of New York, is now Law Librarian of the Court of General Sessions, Criminal Courts Building, 32 Franklin Street, New York City. Mr. De Vito, whose work in organizing and developing the District Attorney's Library was commended by Felix C. Benvenga, Assistant District Attorney of New York County in his address to the 32nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in New York last June (*L. Lib. J.* 30:265), is the first librarian to be appointed under the "act to amend the code of criminal procedure and the judiciary law, in relation to the appointment of a librarian and a law assistant of the court of general sessions of the county of New York."

The Criminal Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York in reporting the bill creating this new position emphasized the need for a librarian and defined his duties as follows:

"A qualified librarian is as necessary to the proper conduct of a library as the books therein contained. Of course, a law librarian should have an intimate and extensive knowledge of legal literature. He must know his books not only in their contemporary development but in their historical origins. He should have a lively acquaintance with the various digests and reporter systems. But he should also be trained in the law and have had some experience as a practitioner.\*\*\* To be of practical service to the judges of this court, the law librarian should be able, at a moment's notice, to trace a given statute through its many changes and to give the interpretations of the statute by the higher courts. Above all, he should be able to know where to look for the information desired and how to obtain it expeditiously. To do this, he should have a complete and organized library and should maintain it so."

Both a lawyer and an experienced librarian, Mr. De Vito is eminently well qualified to serve as Law Librarian of the Court of General Sessions. The announcement of his appointment was welcomed with enthusiasm by his many friends in the

American Association of Law Libraries. Mr. De Vito is Chairman of the Association's Committee on the List of Law Libraries in the 1938 Standard Legal Directory.

RACHEL R. ANDERSON, Cataloger of the New York County Lawyers' Association since 1930, was appointed on January 3, 1938 to the position of Tax Research Librarian in the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Albany, New York.

Elected to Phi Beta Kappa during her student days at Ohio State University, Mrs. Anderson has continued her record of excellence in scholarship. In 1934 she was awarded the degree of Master of Arts by Columbia University. Her recent appointment was made following her completion of a New York civil service examination in which she ranked first. She is an active member of the American Library Association, Special Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries.

PAUL BURTON DE WITT was named State Law Librarian of Iowa on December 15, 1937 to succeed the late A. J. Small. Mr. De Witt, who prior to his appointment was engaged in the practice of law in Sioux City, Iowa, with the firm of Milchrist, Schmidt and Marshall, is a graduate of the State University of Iowa and the University of Michigan Law School.

IRENE GELINAS, the new Assistant Law Librarian at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri has had an unusual background of library experience. She was engaged for a time in public library reference work and later served as a member of the staff of the Michigan State Law Library. Before her appointment to Washington University last July she was Librarian at the Tennessee Wesleyan College at Athens, Tennessee. Miss Gelinas received the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Northwestern University and was graduated from the University of Illinois Library School with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Science.

ERNEST M. ESPELIE, a member of the staff of the University of Michigan Law Library since 1932, was appointed Librarian of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, in September, 1937. Mr. Espelie obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Library Science from the University of Michigan. In 1936-37 he served as a member of the American Association of Law Libraries Committee on the List of Law Libraries in the Standard Legal Directory.

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WASHINGTON LAW REVIEW AND STATE BAR JOURNAL (Vol. 12, No. 4, Nov., 1937) carries in its book section (p. 309-11) an Index to Recent Accessions to the University of Washington Law Library. This Index will be included in all future issues of the WASHINGTON LAW REVIEW, according to an announcement made in the October, 1937 number of the LAW LIBRARY BULLETIN, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.

The purpose of the Index is to call further to the attention of the bar of the state the facilities and services of the Law Library. Loans of books from the Library will be made to attorneys throughout the state.

### New Periodicals

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY LETTER, Saint Louis, Missouri, edited by the Law Library Staff, issued its first number in November, 1937, with an announcement that subsequent numbers will be published in January, March and May. The Letter contains law school notes, law library notes and a selected list of books recently added to the library.

Oscar C. Orman, Washington University's energetic law librarian, is to be congratulated upon the commencement of this new law library publication. The value of these publications was commented upon recently in these pages (*L. Lib. J.* 30:250) when attention was called to the three law school libraries, Duke, University of Washington and Yale, issuing publications concerning the activities of their libraries, or in regard to their history and collections.

N. A. M. LAW DIGEST (volume 1, number 1, November, 1937), published monthly from September to June by the Law Department of the National Association of Manufacturers, 14 West 49th Street, New York City, contains analysis of industrial laws, legislation, and decisions. Its initial number includes an analysis of bills introduced in the Special Session of the Seventh-fifth Congress, the Existing Docket of Business for the Regular Session of the Seventy-fifth Congress, summaries of recent court decisions of interest to industry, and digests of National Labor Relations Board Decisions.

Subscriptions may be entered on an exchange basis with other periodicals through C. M. Updegraff, Associate Counsel of the National Manufacturer's Association.

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD QUARTERLY published its first number in December, 1937, with the following announcement from Mortimer Riemer, National Secretary of the National Lawyers Guild, Rust Building, Washington, D. C.:

"The QUARTERLY will be devoted, in the field of law, to the area between technical specialization of the standard law review and the general discussion in current journals of opinion—a field hitherto undeveloped in periodical literature. Special attention will be given to problems of law students as well as practitioners, and economic and social questions will be dealt with as they affect the profession."

This new periodical will be published quarterly in December, March, June and September. The subscription price is \$1.50 a year.

THE SHINGLE (Vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1938) published by the Philadelphia Bar Association contains an article on the Library, written by James C. Baxter, Librarian, Philadelphia Bar Association and President of the American Association of Law Libraries. Founded in 1802 the Library of the Philadelphia Bar Association is the oldest law library in the United States, and the second largest bar association library. The Library has a total of 94,804 volumes.

THE SHINGLE has an attractive cover and format. It will be issued monthly except during July, August and September by the Bar Association, 603 City Hall, Philadelphia. Subscription price \$2.00 per year.

#### Committees on Duplication of Legal Publications Meet

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION to Study and Report upon the Duplication of Legal Publications, the Committee on Current Legal Literature of the Association of American Law Schools, and the Committee on Cooperation with Law Book Publishers and Publishers' Representatives of the American Association of Law Libraries met in joint session at the call of the Chairman Eldon R. James of the American Bar Association Committee in Chicago on December 30, 1937 to consider common problems.

Those present at the meeting, in addition to the Chairman, were: Clarence A. Rolloff, member of the A. B. A. Committee; Professor James A. McLaughlin and Professor Frederick De Sloovere representing the Association of American Law Schools; William S. Johnston, Chairman of the American Association of Law Libraries' Committee on Cooperation with Law Book Publishers, and two members of his Committee: Laurie H. Riggs, Librarian of the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, and J. Oscar Emrich, Librarian of the Allegheny County Law Library; James C. Baxter, Librarian of Philadelphia Bar Association and President of the American Association of Law Libraries; Mrs. Bernita J. Long, Librarian of the University of Illinois Law Library and Second Vice-President of the American Association of Law Libraries; Alfred A. Morrison, Law Librarian of the University of Cincinnati; Helen Newman, Law Librarian of The George Washington University and Executive Secretary of the American Association of Law Libraries. Justus L. Schlichting, President of the Commerce Clearing House; Burdette Smith, President of the Burdette Smith Company; and R. E. Dokmo of the Burdette Smith Company represented the publishers.

The meeting recognized a common interest in the members of all three of the organizations named above as consumers of legal publications in having the most efficient and adequate legal publications made available in reasonable compass and at moderate prices. The meeting also received the expression of opinion from publishers present that law publishers would welcome the establishment of an organization able to give articulate advice concerning consumers' interests.

The meeting resolved to recommend to the organizations there represented the formation of a permanent committee or body, composed of representatives of these organizations and of other organizations having similar interests, designed to study continually and to promote the interests in question.

It was further agreed that one of the first subjects for the consideration of such permanent committee should be the possibility of the progressive elimination of separate state court reports in favor of a single court reporting system.

**From the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

HON. HENRY T. LUMMUS, Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and author of *The Trial Judge*, addressed the Bar Association of the City of Boston, December 18, 1937, on "The Work of the Supreme Judicial Court". This talk, which appears in Bar Bulletin No. 131, January, 1938, deals with the manner in which the Massachusetts court does its work and with the qualities it looks for in the arguments of counsel. It is more or less applicable to any jurisdiction. Reprints of the address have been made and may be secured from Dunbar F. Carpenter, 50 State Street, Boston, Mass.

Librarians who attended the Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 20-22, 1936, will remember the engaging and stimulating address given by Justice Lummus at the dinner at the Wayside Inn (*L. Lib. J.* 29:248-254).

MASSACHUSETTS APPELLATE DIVISION REPORTS, published in unbound parts, are now completing their third year. The 1935 volume was called Boston Municipal Court Appellate Division Reports, Volume 1. The scope was then broadened to cover the entire state, and the 1936 volume is known as Massachusetts Appellate Division Reports, Volume 1.

Many of the earlier numbers are out-of-print. The publishers have considered reprinting, but they state that the apparent demand is not sufficient to justify the expense. It is suggested that all libraries needing these reports write at once to the publishers in the hope that they may be induced to reconsider. The name and address is Lawyers' Brief & Publishing Co., 68 Devonshire Street, Boston, Mass.

**ESSAYS ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

A four volume set of *Selected Essays on Constitutional Law* will be published this spring by the Association of American Law Schools provided a sufficient number of advance subscriptions can be obtained. Advance orders at \$40 a set should be sent at once to Dean Herschel W. Arant, President, Association of American Law Schools, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The retail price after the expiration of the pre-publication offer will be \$60 a set.

All law librarians are familiar with the *Selected Readings on the Law of Contracts*, published in 1932 by the Association of American Law Schools. The materials for the volumes on Constitutional Law have been selected and edited by a group of eighteen law school professors under the direction of Professor Douglas B. Maggs, Duke University, General Editor.

The set, which covers the whole field of constitutional law, consists of five books bound in four volumes, and includes 330 articles, notes and other essays, written by 200 authors, and taken from 55 different periodicals, including political science journals and other non-legal publications. No present work contains as comprehensive or as thorough and detailed expositions and analyses of constitutional

decisions, doctrines, rules and theories. The content has been chosen so as to meet the needs of the practicing lawyer and the judge no less than the needs of the scholar and those of the student in law schools and in political science departments. Detailed indices and complete tables of cases will make readily usable all parts of the 6700 pages of the text contained in the four volumes.

### BOOK REVIEWS

**YALE LAW LIBRARY MANUAL, THE BUILDING, THE BOOKS, AND THEIR AVAILABILITY FOR USE.** *Prepared by the staff of the Yale Law Library. Yale Law Library Publications No. 5, August, 1937. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937. Pp. vi + 74, illustrated. 75 cents.*

Fortunately, among the several things for which the Yale Law Library is distinguished is the fact that its staff conceives its function as extending beyond the four walls of its own quarters, and indeed beyond the confines of the law school of which it is a part. In this wider circle of service, the law library profession is no doubt regarded as constituting a very important segment. At any rate, under the leadership of Professor Hicks, active participation by the staff in the work of professional organizations, and frequent contributions to the literature of the field afford ample proof, not only to sustain such a conclusion, but to support a strong presumption that the administration of the library itself is both vigorous and effective.

In the series known as the "Yale Law Library Publications", of which the title now under consideration is the fifth number, an excellent medium for reaching the wider circle of interested persons has been established, and the precedent is one that might well be followed by other law libraries. Needless to say, each number in the series has been of interest to law librarians, both because of its sponsorship and because it has been so largely devoted to matters relating to a particular law library. In this Manual, although primarily intended for the use of other groups, notably Yale Law School students and faculty members, alumni, and friends of the library, librarians will find much of immediate practical value, for it is a succinct but informative account of the outstanding features of the library and of its administration.

The subject matter is discussed under five chapter headings. Chapter I gives a concise albeit complete general description of the physical facilities. Chapter II is devoted to the collection, the scope of which is illustrated by a recital of the actual classes into which it is divided. An examination of this list should be an eye opener for anyone who still believes that the creation of a comprehensive legal collection is a narrow and restricted undertaking. The reader's interest is sustained by brief comments upon the various classes, as well as upon the several special collections. Perhaps a few librarians may even be tempted to commence in their own libraries similar collections, as for example, those of association books, law faculty publications, publications dealing with their particular law school, or some of the others mentioned. Many libraries could have such collections and every advantage accrues to those who make an early beginning. Chapter III comments upon and lists the

donors to the library, and Chapter IV, which is entitled "Availability of the Collection" indicates how classification (the Yale classification is briefly described), the card catalogue and other aids assist the public. The use of the card catalogue is briefly described. The last chapter is devoted to the staff organization. This subject is treated under five sub-headings, namely, the readers' service, accessions department, cataloguing and classification department, binding department, and general administration. The chapter closes with a list of the present staff members, 22 in number, all of whom participated in the preparation of the Manual. Three appendices add materially to the value of the book. The first gives a selected list of Anglo-American legal periodicals currently received by the library, and the second, a similar list of foreign legal periodicals. The third lists the subjects of some of the exhibits which have been held in the reading room.

For the law librarian the Manual contains much food for thought. A glimpse of how this excellent law library functions should be stimulating to all. Although budgetary limitations and other conditions place many of its facilities beyond the reach of most law schools there are few law libraries, however small, which could not be improved through the appropriation of one or more of the features therein described. Needless to say, the Manual throughout reflects the spirit that is implicit in the slogan of the Yale Law Library, namely, "A law library is a collection of books, properly housed, and organized for service."

WILLIAM R. ROALFE.

Duke University Law School Library,  
Durham, North Carolina.

LEGAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND THE USE OF LAW BOOKS. By Arthur Sydney Beardsley.

Chicago: The Foundation Press, Inc. 1937. Pp. xv, 514. \$4.00.

Too few persons well versed in law books and their use put their knowledge and understanding into writing. Dr. Beardsley has made his contribution to the field of law book science in this newly published book.

The table of contents shows an orderly approach. The book is divided into seven parts which deal with Law and Law Books, Constitutional and Statutory, Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Books of Reference, Search for Authorities, Brief Making. The final one hundred pages contains appendices in which lists of State and Territorial Reports, English Reports, English, Irish, and Scotch Reports, Parallel Citations to English Common Law Reports, Parallel Citations to the English Reprint, Canadian Reports and Australian Reports and Abbreviations are set out in detail. A workable index concludes the volume.

As one reads the book, he is impressed by its systematic arrangement. It is difficult to think of problems encountered in the modern law library that are not explained therein. The author's clarity of expression in explaining the effective use of law books is excellent. In order to appreciate the difficulty encountered in giving intelligent and accurate directions for the use of law books, it is only necessary to try to state technique clearly and succinctly. This book is designed more

for the use of the novice than of the veteran. It is, therefore, eminently satisfactory to feel, as one reads, that he is being led by the hand through the maze and welter of our myriad of law books.

The sections are compendious and pertinent. In the preface the purpose of this work is stated to be an attempt to correlate descriptions of law books, with an actual examination of the volumes under discussion. This purpose has been measurably attained. Much in the way of manual use of the books is left for the searcher to do before he can be said really to be acquainted with either the books or their use.

This book is very helpful in providing a quick and convenient answer to most of the questions which may be asked regarding the use of law books.

One regrets to discover so little material on governmental publications. This is a highly complicated field and a more detailed explanation of the United States Administrative and Departmental Decisions and some explanation of the reports of hearings before Congressional Committees, and the like, would have been decidedly valuable.

It was disappointing to find a table of only the leading current legal periodicals. There is great need for a complete list of all legal periodicals issued at any time prior to the date of the publication of this book, including a statement of the number of volumes of each. The inclusion of data on the cost per volume subscription and the name and address of the publishers is a fine innovation.

The explanation of the Loose Leaf Services published by the Commerce Clearing House, Inc., in Chapter XXIV is excellent, but it would be helpful also to have information regarding similar services offered by other publishers, with possibly some comparison of their qualities.

In Appendix III, beginning on page 402 which sets forth a list of State and Territorial Reports, there are several important omissions. No mention is made of the newly published Connecticut Supplement Reports, or of the Reports of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (N. S.), formerly called Supreme Court of the District of Columbia Reports (N. S.). Omissions of such reports as Mississippi Unreported Decisions (Hemingway and McDonald), 2 volumes; Lansing's New York Chancery Reports, 1 volume; New York Court of Claims Reports, 18 volumes; and some of the Pennsylvania "side reports" are regrettable.

In Appendix V, beginning on page 452, confusion arises because the author does not indicate whether any of the sets which he lists are current. Every entry should have been brought up-to-date, and should indicate the number of volumes existing at the date of this publication, with some note to indicate whether it is still currently issued.

There are some typographical errors, but no book seems to be without them. They seem to be inevitable.

Each chapter has an assignment, following the text material, designed to aid the student to make a manual use of the books and to learn by doing. Questions presenting their possible uses are set out.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Beardsley for this fine book. It cannot be used in lieu of a catalogue but contains all the material commonly used and will be extremely useful to the student, the teacher, the lawyer, and ever to the law librarian. Perhaps it would have been better to have entitled this book a manual instead of a legal bibliography. Assembling this material was a colossal task. It may well stand as a monument to Dr. Beardsley's industry, as well as to his knowledge and understanding of the use of law books.

LEWIS W. MORSE.

Cornell Law School,  
Ithaca, New York.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Organized 1906

Incorporated 1935

#### **Officers and Executive Committee, 1937-1938**

<i>President</i>	James C. Baxter, Librarian Philadelphia Bar Association Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<i>Executive Committee</i>
<i>First Vice-President</i>	Arthur S. Beardsley Law Librarian University of Washington Seattle, Washington	The Officers Fred Y. Holland, Librarian Supreme Court Library Denver, Colorado
<i>Second Vice-President</i>	Bernita J. Long Law Librarian University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois	Sidney B. Hill, Assistant Librarian Association of the Bar of the City of New York
<i>Executive Secretary and Treasurer</i>	Helen Newman Law Librarian The George Washington University Washington, D. C.	Olive C. Lathrop, Librarian Detroit Bar Association Library Detroit, Michigan
		Lewis W. Morse, Law Librarian Cornell University Ithaca, New York
		Helen S. Moylan, Law Librarian State University of Iowa Iowa City, Iowa

### **Committees, 1937-1938**

*Committee on Bar Association Publications*

*Committee on Cooperation with the American Bar Association*

Willard L. King	Marie Russell, <i>Chairman</i>	Ella May Thornton
Marguerite Lyons		
<i>Committee on Cooperation with the American Bar Association</i>		
Joseph F. Gaghan	Dennis A. Dooley, <i>Chairman</i>	Layton B. Register
Gilson G. Glasier		John T. Vance
Bernita J. Long		Sumner V. Wheeler

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App. Reports	. . .	West Pub. Co.	26
Session laws	Quadrennial	Secretary of State	Extra 1936-37

**ALASKA**

Reports	. . .	West Pub. Co.	8
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of Territory	1937

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Reports	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co.	48
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Reg., 1st, 2d, 3d Spec., 1937

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Reports	. . .	Secretary of State	193
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

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App. Reports	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co.	19(2)
Adv. parts for both sets	. . .	Recorder Printing & Pub. Co. San Francisco	
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Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

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*Advance parts	. . .	E. E. Dissell & Co., Hartford, Conn.	
Superior Ct. Rep.	. . .	†Connecticut Law	Conn. Supp.
Common Pleas Rep.	. . .	Journal Pub. Co.	Vols. 1-3
Session laws	Odd years	Bridgeport, Conn.	
		State Librarian	Spec. 1936, Reg. 1937

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Chancery reports	. . .	State Librarian	20
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	Reg. 1937

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Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

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Reports	. . .	The Harrison Co.	184
App. Reports	. . .	The Harrison Co.	55
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1937

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**HAWAII**

Publication	Dates of Regular Sessions	Source	Latest Vol. to Appear
Reports	. . .	Clerk of Supreme Court	33
*Advance parts		Clerk of Supreme Court	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of Territory	1937

**IDAHO**

Reports	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co.	56
Session laws	Odd years	Capital News Pub. Co.	2d & 3rd Extra, 1935 Reg. 1937

**ILLINOIS**

Reports	. . .	Callaghan & Co.	366
*Advance parts	. . .	Supreme Ct. Reporter	
App. Reports	. . .	Callaghan & Co.	290
*Advance parts	. . .	Callaghan & Co.	

Court of Claims Reports	. . .	State Printer	8
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

**INDIANA**

Reports	. . .	Secretary of State	209
App. Reports	. . .	Secretary of State	101
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

**IOWA**

Reports	. . .	Superintendent of Printing	221
Session laws	Odd years	Ex. 1936, Reg. 1937	

**KANSAS**

Reports	. . .	State Librarian	144
*Advance parts	. . .	State Librarian	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

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Reports	. . .	State Librarian	267
*Advance parts	. . .	State Librarian	
Session laws	Even years	State Librarian	4th Spec. 1936-37

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Reports	. . .	West Pub. Co.	187
Courts of Appeal	. . .	Hauser Printing Co.	19
Session laws	Even years	Secretary of State	1936

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Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	Spec. 1936, Spec. & Reg. 1937

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*Advance parts			
Session laws	Odd beginning with 1927	State Librarian	Reg. and Spec. 1937

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Advance parts	. . .	Secretary of the Commonwealth	1937
Session laws	Annual		

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Reports	. . .	Callaghan & Co.	278
*Advance parts	. . .	Callaghan & Co.	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

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Reports	. . .	Review Pub. Co., St. Paul	198
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Extra 1936, Spec. & Reg. 1937

**MISSISSIPPI**

Reports	. . .	E. W. Stephens Pub. Co., Columbia, Mo.	178
Session laws	Even years	Secretary of State	1936

**MISSOURI**

Publication	Dates of Regular Sessions	Source	Latest Vol. to Appear
Reports	. . .	E. W. Stephens Pub. Co., Columbia, Mo.	339
App. Reports	. . .	E. W. Stephens Pub. Co., Columbia, Mo.	230
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

**MONTANA**

Reports	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co.	104
Session laws	Odd years	State Publishing Co., Helena	1937

**NEBRASKA**

Reports	. . .	State Librarian	132
Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	1937

**NEVADA**

Reports	. . .	Secretary of State	56
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Reports	. . .	C. D. Hening, Lancaster, N. H., Reporter	87
*Advance parts	. . .	C. D. Hening, Lancaster, N. H., Reporter	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Spec. 1936, Reg. 1937

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Law Reports	. . .	Soney & Sage	117
Equity Reports	. . .	Soney & Sage	121
Miscellaneous Reports	. . .	Soney & Sage	14
Advance parts covering above	. . .	Soney & Sage	
Session laws	Annual	Secretary of State	1937

**NEW MEXICO**

Reports	. . .	West Pub. Co.	40
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Spec. 1936, Reg. 1937

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Reports	. . .	J. B. Lyon Co., Albany	274
App. Div. Reports	. . .	J. B. Lyon Co.	250
N. Y. Miscellaneous	. . .	J. B. Lyon Co.	162
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*Advance parts	. . .	West Pub. Co.	296
Appellate Courts Digest	. . .	West Pub. Co.	
Session laws	Annual	Current Law Pub. Service, Albany	Discontinued
		J. B. Lyon Co.	1937

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Reports	. . .	Secretary of State	210
*Advance parts	. . .	Secretary of State	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Extra 1936, Reg. 1937

**NORTH DAKOTA**

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Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1st Spec. 1937, Reg. 1937

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Ohio Opinions	. . .	W. H. Anderson Co., Cincinnati	9
Advance Reports	. . .	Ohio Law Bulletin and Reporter, Cincinnati	
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Extra 1936

## STATE REPORTS AND SESSION LAWS

39

**OKLAHOMA**

Publication	Dates of Regular Sessions	Source	Latest Vol. to Appear
Reports	. . .	Harlow Publishing Co., Oklahoma City	180
Criminal Reports	. . .	Secretary of State	58
Session laws	Odd years		Spec. 1936, Reg. 1937

**OREGON**

Reports	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co.	156
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1937

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State Reports	. . .	Geo. T. Bisel & Co., Philadelphia	326
Superior Ct. Repts.	. . .	Geo. T. Bisel & Co., Philadelphia	125
District and County Reports	. . .	Legal Intelligencer, Philadelphia	29
Advance parts for all the above	. . .	Legal Intelligencer, Philadelphia	
Session laws	Odd years	Bureau of Publication	Spec. 1936

**PHILIPPINES**

Reports	. . .	Bureau Insular Affairs, Washington	59
Public laws	. . .	Bureau Insular Affairs, Washington	30

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Reports	. . .	Dept. of Interior, Washington	42
Advance parts	. . .	Secretary-Reporter, San Juan	
Session laws	Annual	Dept. of Interior, Washington	4th Spec. '36, Reg. '37

**RHODE ISLAND**

Reports	. . .	State Librarian	55
Superior Court Decisions	. . .	Pub. by Rhode Island Law Record, Providence	12
Acts and Resolves	Annual	State Librarian	1937
Public laws	Annual	State Librarian	Jan. Session 1937

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Reports	. . .	R. L. Bryan, Columbia	182
*Advance parts	. . .	R. L. Bryan, Columbia	
Session laws	Annual	State Library	1937

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

Reports	. . .	State Pub. Co., Pierre	64
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Spec. 1936, Reg. 1937

**TENNESSEE**

Reports	. . .	E. W. Stephens Pub. Co., Columbia, Mo.	170
Court of Appeals	. . .	E. W. Stephens Pub. Co., Columbia, Mo.	19
Session laws	Odd years	Printing Dept., Tenn. Industrial School, Nashville	Ex. 1936, Reg. 1937

**TEXAS**

Reports	. . .	Hicks-Gastom Co., Dallas	127
Criminal Reports	. . .	Hicks-Gastom Co., Dallas	131
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	Spec. 1936

**UNITED STATES**

Reports	. . .	Govt. Printing Office	299
*Advance parts	. . .	Govt. Printing Office	301
Reports L. Ed.	. . .	Lawyers Co-op. Pub. Co.	81
Advance parts	. . .	Lawyers Co-op. Pub. Co.	82
U. S. Supreme Court Reporter	. . .	West Pub. Co.	57
Advance parts	. . .	West Pub. Co.	58
Puerto Rico Federal I. C. C.	. . .	Lawyers Co-op. Pub. Co.	14
I. C. C. Valuation Reports	. . .	Govt. Printing Office	222
		Govt. Printing Office	46

**UNITED STATES—Continued.**

Publication	Dates of Regular Sessions	Source	Latest Vol. to Appear
Attorney General Opinions	. . .	Govt. Printing Office	38
*Advance parts	. . .	Govt. Printing Office	
Aviation reports	. . .	United States Aviation Reports, Inc., Baltimore, Md.	1937
Court of Claims	. . .	Govt. Printing Office	84
Comptroller General Decisions	. . .	Govt. Printing Office	15
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Session laws	Odd years	Inland Ptg. Co., Kaysville	1937

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Session laws	Odd years	State Librarian	Spec. 1936, Reg. 1937

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Reports	. . .	Secretary of Commonwealth	167
Session laws	Even years	Secretary of Commonwealth	Extra 1936-37

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Advance parts	. . .	Bancroft, Whitney & Co.	
Session laws	Odd years	State Law Librarian	1937

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Reports	. . .	Secretary of State	116
Supreme Ct. of App. Syllabus Service	. . .	Mrs. G. C. Goff, Charleston	17
Session laws	Odd years	Secretary of State	1st and 2nd Extra, 1936, Reg. 1937

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Session laws	Odd years	State Bur. of Purchase, Madison	Reg. 1937 and 1st Spec. 1937
Biennial compilation by the State Reviser	. . .	State Bur. of Purchase, Madison	1937

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(adopted 1924 as amended to Nov. 1, 1937) Washington: Law Reporter  
Printing Co. \$2.50.

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Bar Association Reports, 53rd Annual Session, 1936.

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Kansas Judicial Council Bulletin, Part 4—11th Annual Report, Dec., 1937. Topeka:  
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Tax Commission. 15th Biennial Report, 1934-36.

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Maryland State Bar Association, Report of 42nd Meeting, June, 1937.  
Maryland, Uniform State Laws, Reports of Commissioners on, 1935 and 1937.

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Marriage and Divorce Laws of Massachusetts, 2nd Ed. By J. Cummings.

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New Jersey Consolidated Statutes of 1937. Trenton: Secretary of State (Volumes  
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